DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 239 254 CS 208 008

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TITLE	The Nym Family: Synonyms, Antonyms, Homonyms, Acronyms.
INSTITUTION	Area Education Agency 7, Cedar Falls, IA.
PUB DATE	[80]
NOTE	31p.
PUB TYPE	Guides - Classroom Use - Guides (For Teachers) (052)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC02 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	*Abbreviations; Elementary Education; Learning Activities; Spelling; Teaching Methods; Vocabulary Skills; *Word Recognition; *Word Study Skills
IDENTIFIERS	Antonyms; Homographs; *Homonyms; Homophones; PF Project; *Synonyms

ABSTRACT

Intended to help students improve their vocabulary and spelling skills, this booklet offers activities on synonyms, antonyms, homonyms (including homophones and homographs), and acronyms. It is suggested that the teacher present these types of words as members of the "Nym Family." Ideas for posters and books to be used as instructional aids are given. The activities include writing or rewriting sentences, identifying "nyms" in a sentence, writing short stories, and identifying the full meaning of acronyms. Following the activities, an answer key is provided for the acronym worksheets along with additional ideas for teaching about antonyms, homonyms, and synonyms. This document is part of a collection of materials from the Iowa Area Education Agency 7 Teacher Center project. (DC)

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ED239254

THE NYM FAMILY

ACRONYMS

SYNONYMS

HOMONYMS

ANTONYMS

CS208008

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Cedar Falls, Iowa

Document title: The Nym Family: Synonyms, Antonyms, Homonyms, Acronyms

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Developed with funds provided by a federal Teacher Center grant contract under the provisions of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

AEA 7 Teacher Center
Waterloo, Iowa
Sept. 15, 1978 to Aug. 15, 1983

Teacher Center Policy Board Chair - Doris Mauer
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INTRODUCTION

The following pages of this booklet include activities which may be used to further student understanding of synonyms, antonyms, homonyms, and acronyms. An understanding of these language concepts will help students improve their vocabulary and spelling skills.

STUDENT OBJECTIVES

After completion of these activities a student should be able to:

A. State the meaning of synonyms and give examples of synonyms.

B. State the meaning of antonyms and give examples of antonyms.

C. State the meaning of homonyms (including homophones and homographs) and give examples of homonyms.

D. State the meaning of acronyms and give examples of acronyms.

E. Explain how a dictionary and a thesaurus can be used to help locate or find meanings for synonyms, antonyms, homonyms, and acronyms.

The Nym Family

I have found that children enjoy working with synonyms, antonyms, homonyms, and acronyms when they are presented as members of the "Nym Family". The children seem to better remember the meanings of each Nym Family member.

At the start of my unit on the Nym Family, I always display posters and charts of the family members and their meanings as a means of introducing them. These posters and charts are left up throughout the unit.

At other times during the year when synonyms, antonyms, etc. are encountered, the children will usually refer back to their study of the Nym Family to help them remember.

You may want to make similar posters and charts. Below are some ideas for making these.

A. Posters of Meanings

The Nym Family

Homonyms - Include the following:

Homophones - Words that sound alike but have different spellings and different meanings.

Homographs - Words that look alike but have different meanings and often different pronunciations.
(*Note - When homonyms are taught they are often taught as homophones. You may want to do it that way, or, bring in the concept of homographs as well.)

Examples: see, sea bear, bare nose, knows
The weather is fair. We went to the fair.
Please close the door. She is standing close to me.

Antonyms - Words that have opposite meanings.

Examples: up, down far, near good, bad

Synonyms - Words having the same or nearly the same meanings.

Examples: big, huge, large win, beat, defeat

Acronyms - Abbreviations formed by using the first letter of each word.

Examples: U.N. - United Nations U.S.A. - United States of America

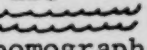
B. Books to Help you Find and Figure out Nym Family Members

Thesaurus - A book listing synonyms and antonyms.

Dictionary - Gives meanings of words by listing synonyms. Sometimes gives antonyms. Gives meanings for abbreviations. Gives different pronunciations in respellings. Gives different meanings for the same word.

Special Dictionaries - Specifically list synonyms, antonyms, homonyms, or abbreviations in alphabetical order.

C. Make individual posters for each. For example:

1. Draw a man and label him Mr. Homonym. Underneath write: Mr. Homonym always sounds the same. His meanings are tricky. When he says see does he mean or  ?
(*Note - This is for homophones. If you go into homographs, you may want to do this poster differently.

2. Draw a lady and label her Mrs. Antonym. Underneath write: Mrs. Antonym always argues. If you say up, she says down. If you say right, she says wrong.

3. Draw a little boy and label him Baby Synonym. Underneath write: Baby Synonym is a copycat. When you say little, he says tiny, or wee.

4. Draw another woman and label her A.U.N.T. Acronym. Underneath write: A.U.N.T. Acronym's title stands for Abbreviations Under New Treatment. She tires of writing and saying the whole name and title of something. She saves time by shortening names to first letters.

PICK THE CORRECT HOMONYM

Directions: Rewrite these sentences after picking the correct homonyms to fit the meanings.

1. Pat _____ the ball right _____ the window. (through, threw)

2. I have never _____ that _____ from that play before now. (seen, scene)

3. After eating a _____ of pie, he sat down and enjoyed the _____ and quiet. (peace, piece)

4. The _____ who _____ the race is the fastest. (won, one)

5. The _____ put on his armor and left in the middle of the _____. (knight, night)

6. I never _____ that you had a _____ car. (new, knew)

7. Of _____ science has always been my hardest _____. (course, coarse)

8. _____ gone on vacation to _____ grandma's house. (there, their, they're)

9. I am looking for a matching _____ of socks. (pair, pare, pear)

10. Do you know the _____ _____ to _____ yourself. (write, right) weigh, way)

MIXED-UP HOMONYMS

Someone was mixed-up when they wrote these sentences. They used the wrong homonyms. Rewrite the sentences so they are not confusing. There are twenty-one mistakes.

1. They called there friend to sea if he was home.

2. We went two the store, and they did two.

3. Witch do you like, chocolate or vanilla ice cream?

4. Eye past him on the street today.

5. She maid her bed and eight breakfast.

6. Please right you're name on hear.

7. Wear are you going to meat Jack?

8. The whether was fare, and the son was shining.

9. Julie's ant has a diamond that is two carrots!

10. Greg tide his shoes and combed his hare.

HOMOPHONES

Homophones are one kind of homonym. They are words that sound alike, but are spelled differently and have different meanings. The homophones below are often misspelled. Make up an original sentence for each word below using it correctly. If you are not sure of a meaning, use the dictionary.

1. a. to_____
   b. two_____
   c. too_____

2. a. write_____
   b. right_____

3. a. there_____
   b. their_____
   c. they're_____

4. a. see_____
   b. sea_____

5. a. sew_____
   b. so_____
   c. sow_____

6. a. way_____
   b. weigh_____
   c. whey_____

7. a. buy_____
   b. by_____
   c. bye_____

8. a. principal_____

   b. principle_____

9. a. stationary_____

   b. stationery_____

10. a. capital_____

    b. capitol_____

MORE HOMOPHONES

Make up an original sentence for each homophone below using it correctly. If you are unsure of a meaning, use the dictionary.

1. a. knew_____

   b. new_____

2. a. hear_____

   b. here_____

3. a. which_____

   b. witch_____

4. a. eight_____

   b. ate_____

5. a. whether_____

   b. weather_____

6. a. piece_____

   b. peace_____

7. a. whole_____

   b. hole_____

8. a. blue_____

   b. blew_____

9. a. led_____

   b. lead_____

10. a. where_____

    b. wear_____

    c. ware_____

HOMOGRAPHS

Homographs are words that are spelled alike but have different meanings and often different pronunciations.

Each of these homographs can have two pronunciations. Use a dictionary to find and copy their respellings. Then use them in a sentence.

1. lead _____

   _____

2. read _____

   _____

3. content _____

   _____

4. produce _____

   _____

5. object _____

   _____

6. present _____

   _____

7. desert _____

   _____

8. contest _____

   _____

9. perfect _____

   _____

10. bow _____

    _____

11. use _____

    _____

12. close _____

_____

13. bass _____

_____

14. tear _____

_____

COMMONLY USED HOMONYMS (HOMOPHONES)

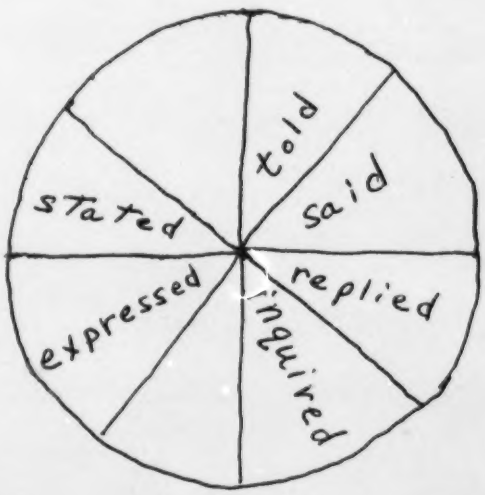
1. to, two, too
2. write, right
3. their, they're, there
4. see, sea
5. sow, sew, so
6. way, weigh, whey
7. buy, bye, by
8. principle, principal
9. stationary, stationery
10. capital, capitol
11. knew, new
12. hear, here
13. which, witch
14. eight, ate
15. whether, weather
16. piece, peace
17. whole, hole
18. blue, blew
19. read, red
20. led, lead
21. where, wear, ware
22. sent, scent
23. you're, your
24. pear, pair, pare
25. through, threw
26. waist, waste
27. would, wood
28. plain, plane
29. sail, sale
30. sight, site
31. toe, tow
32. tail, tale
33. stair, stare
34. made, maid
35. bee, be
36. no, know
37. passed, past
38. eye, I
39. won, one
40. sum, some
41. four, for, fore
42. our, hour
43. son, sun
44. ho, hoe
45. heal, heel
46. pause, paws
47. aloud, allowed
48. not, knot
49. main, mane
50. shown, shone
51. tide, tied
52. soar, sore
53. it's, its
54. pain, pane
55. dear, deer
56. urn, earn
57. wait, weight
58. break, brake
59. beet, beat
60. meet, meat
61. kernel, colonel
62. creek, creak
63. coarse, course
64. night, knight
65. seen, scene
66. air, heir
67. carrot, carat, caret
68. counsel, council
69. hi, high
70. but, butt
71. pail, pale
72. male, mail
73. dye, die
74. flour, flower
75. bare, bear
76. side, sighed
77. ail, ale
78. bail, bale
79. Gail, gale
80. whale, wail
81. horse, hoarse
82. nose, knows
83. tee, tea
84. whine, wine
85. slow, sloe
86. shoa, shoe
87. light, lite
88. might, mite
89. hair, hare
90. aunt, ant
91. steel, steal
92. quartz, quarts
93. wee, we
94. muscle, mussel
95. do, dew
96. fair, fare
97. grown, groan
98. lone, loan
99. hey, hay
100. bin, been

101. tern, turn
102. soul, sole
103. you, ewe
104. ball, bawl
105. feat, feet
106. time, thyme
107. clothes, close
108. week, weak
109. gait, gate
110. bore, boar
111. team, teem
112. taught, taut
113. tray, trey
114. friar, fryer
115. load, lode
116. seam, seem
117. suit, suite
118. ring, wring
119. rye, wry
120. we'd, weed
121. all, awl
122. foul, fowl
123. rough, ruff
124. bowl, boll
125. nap, knap
126. wrote, rote

SYNONYM FLOWERS OR SYNONYM CIRCLES

Have students draw flowers and put synonyms on the petals of each flower. Or, have them draw circles divided into equal parts which are then filled in with synonyms. You could also give them the forms or figures already drawn and ready to fill in.

Examples:



SYNONYM STORIES

Rewrite the stories below. Use synonyms to replace the underlined words.

One day a little boy was walking down the street. He saw a coin lying on the sidewalk.

He looked all around but saw no one. So, he bent down and picked up the coin.

He wanted to find out who it belonged to, so he went to some nearby houses.

Finally the boy found the person who had lost the coin. The person gave him a reward for returning it.

The big dog went down the street. He was lost and looking for his owner. He had gone off while at the park with his owner. Now, he couldn't find him.

The dog saw a man selling newspapers. The man smiled and touched the dog on the head. But, he wasn't his owner.

Next the dog saw a little girl eating an ice cream cone. It looked good. She saw the dog and gave him a piece of the cone. But, she wasn't his owner.

Suddenly, the dog heard someone calling his name. The dog was happy. He went to his owner and jumped around. His owner was happy to see his dog too.

SYNONYM SEARCH

Synonyms are words that have the same, or nearly the same meaning. Each sentence below contains an underlined word. Find the synonym for each underlined word in the synonym bank.

Synonym Bank		
sparkled	rich	couple
wandered	correct	cry
sore	thin	writer
paused	serious	belongings

1. The wealthy man drove away in his sports car._____
2. Jan's ankle was painful after she fell._____
3. The lake glistened in the sun._____
4. The family packed all its posessions and moved to a new house._____
5. A pair of doves flew overhead._____
6. The cows roamed away from the barn._____
7. A funeral is a solemn occasion._____
8. The author of the book has worked on his story a long time._____.
9. The young horse had slender legs._____
10. Paul hesitated before he answered the question._____
11. She began to weep at the sad movie._____
12. Sue's addition is accurate most of the time._____

FINDING SYNONYMS

Use a thesaurus or dictionary to help you find synonyms for each underlined word below. Write the synonyms in the blanks following each sentence.

1. We are sorry you feel so sad. _____

2. The cowboy caught the wild horse. _____

3. His over eating has caused him to become very fat. _____

4. The price of a new house is very high. _____

5. Terry has a bad cold today. _____

6. The thief took the money and ran out the back door. _____

7. The weather has been very nice this summer. _____

8. We watched a funny show on television. _____

9. The tired hikers moved up the steep trail. _____

10. The little boy is scared of the dark. _____

Name_____ Date_____

Partner's Name_____

SYNONYM SWITCH

Write a short story below. Underline fifteen words in your story that could have synonyms. Exchange your story with someone else. That person must rewrite your story putting in synonyms for your underlined words. You must do the same for your partner's story.

Your story:

Partner rewrites here:

ANTONYMS

Antonyms are words that have opposite meanings. Copy the sentences below and circle the two antonyms in each sentence. Be neat!

Example: Real stories can sometimes be stranger than imaginary ones.

1. Carol was rude, but Pam was polite.

2. Some noisy children were asked to be quiet in the library.

3. They found a shallow place to swim along the bank of the deep river.

4. The rancher keeps his tame horses separate from his wild ones.

5. He has bought modern pieces of art as well as ancient items.

6. Sitting in the hot sun made me thirsty for a cold lemonade.

7. If you fail, try again to succeed.

8. After several cloudy days, it was nice to see sunny skies again.

9. The United States and Japan made an agreement for peace which ended the war.

10. We have a few relatives who live in distant cities, but most live close by.

OPPOSITES

Rewrite the opposite pairs taking one word from Column A and one from Column B. The first one is done for you.

A		A	B	B
empty	1.	morning		late
foe	2.			dirty
clean	3.			night
ugly	4.			awake
death	5.			full
heavy	6.			close
leave	7.			sad
dangerous	8.			truth
firm	9.			birth
morning	10.			hard
early	11.			light
young	12.			beautiful
top	13.			safe
soft	14.			cry
happy	15.			bottom
open	16.			soft
lie	17.			friend
laugh	18.			old
wrong	19.			correct
asleep	20.			arrive

Pick any three pairs and use each pair in a sentence.

1. _____

_____

2. _____

_____

3. _____

_____

Can You Find the Antonyms?

Circle the word in each list that is the opposite of the underlined word at the top of the list.

1. <u>apart</u>
   away
   together
   separate
   alone

2. <u>enter</u>
   come
   arrive
   proceed
   leave

3. <u>argue</u>
   fight
   war
   agree
   disagree

4. <u>empty</u>
   full
   none
   gone
   zero

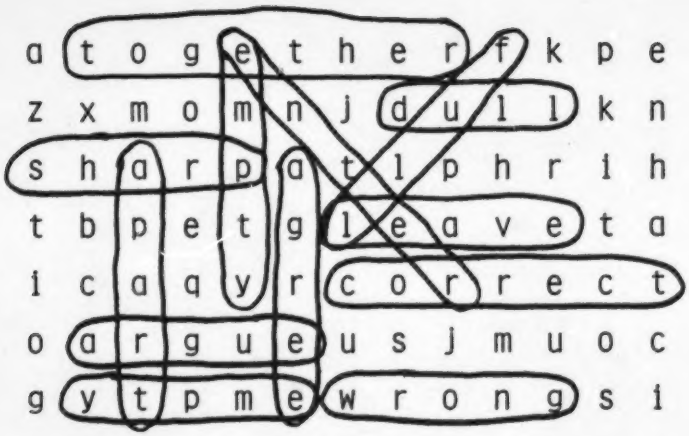
5. <u>sharp</u>
   pointed
   cutting
   jagged
   dull

6. <u>correct</u>
   accurate
   wrong
   right
   okay

Find each pair of antonyms in the word search. They can be across, up, down, diagonal, or backwards.

a t o g e t h e r f k p e
z x m o m n j d u l l k n
s h a r p a t l p h r i h
t b p e t g l e a v e t a
i c a q y r c o r r e c t
o a r g u e u s j m u o c
g y t p m e w r o n g s i

KEY



*Note: Empty is there twice

PREFIXES AND ANTONYMS

Many words have antonyms which are made by adding prefixes. Some of these are:

-in	sincere	insincere
-un	clear	unclear
-dis	agree	disagree
-il	legal	illegal (-il is usually used before words starting with l)
-ir	rational	irrational (-ir is usually used before words starting with r)
-im	possible	impossible (-im is usually used before words starting with b,m,or p)

These prefixes mean "not" in these cases. Change each of the following words to it's antonym by adding the correct prefix from those above. Then use it in a sentence. Use the dictionary to help you if you are not sure.

1. polite_____

_____

2. approve_____

_____

3. correct_____

_____

4. afraid_____

_____

5. replaceable_____

_____

6. literate_____

_____

7. order_____

_____

8. usual_____

_____

9. regular _____

_____

10. sane _____

_____

11. violent _____

_____

12. legible _____

_____

ACRONYMS

Directions: Acronyms are abbreviations formed by using the first letter of each word. See how many of these acronyms you know. Write the meaning beside the acronym. Use your dictionary to help you.

1. B.C. _____
2. A.W.O.L. _____
3. C.O.D. _____
4. C.A.R.E. _____
5. U.F.O. _____
6. p.m. _____
7. a.m. _____
8. A.D. _____
9. A.A.A. _____
10. U.N. _____
11. N.A.T.O. _____
12. N.B.C. _____
13. U.N.I.C.E.F. _____
14. N.A.S.A. _____
15. F.B.I. _____

MORE ACRONYMS!

Here are more acronym abbreviations. Do you know the meaning of these?

1. N.F.L. _____
2. J.V. _____
3. N.A.A.C.P. _____
4. C.B. _____
5. A.M.A. _____
6. U.S.A. _____
7. N.B.A. _____
8. Y.M.C.A. _____
9. D.A. _____
10. A.P.B. _____
11. N.C.A.A. _____
12. A.A. _____
13. A.B.C. _____
14. R.S.V.P. _____
15. B.A. _____

LOOKING FOR ACRONYMS

How many acronyms can you find being used? Look through newspapers, magazines, etc. Ask friends and relatives. Listen to t.v. and radio. Make a list of those you find and return the list to school. Also tell where you found or heard the acronym.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____

TEACHER KEY ACRONYM WORKSHEETS

Acronyms:

1. B.C. Before Christ, British Columbia
2. A.W.O.L. Absent Without Leave
3. C.O.D. Cash on delivery
4. C.A.R.E. Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere
5. U.F.O. Unidentified flying object
6. p.m. post meridiem
7. a.m. ante meridiem
8. A.D. anno domini, after date, active duty
9. A.A.A. American Automobile Association
10. U.N. United Nations
11. N.A.T.O. North Atlantic Treaty Organization
12. N.B.C. National Broadcasting Company
13. U.N.I.C.E.F. United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
14. N.A.S.A. National Aeronautics & Space Administration
15. F.B.I. Federal Bureau of Investigation

More Acronyms:

1. N.F.L. National Football League
2. J.V. Junior Varsity
3. N.A.A.C.P. National Assoc. for the Advancement of Colored People
4. C.B. Citizens band
5. A.M.A. American Medical Association
6. U.S.A. United States of America
7. N.B.A. National Basketball Association
8. Y.M.C.A. Young Men's Christian Association
9. D.A. district attorney, days after acceptance
10. A.P.B. All points bulletin
11. N.C.A.A. National Collegiant Athletic Association
12. A.A. Alcoholics Anonymous, associate in arts
13. A.B.C. American Broadcasting Company
14. R.S.V.P. respondez s'il vous plait (French for please reply)
15. B.A. Bachelor of Arts

More Ideas

<u>Antonyms</u>

1. Draw two pictures. Make objects in the two pictures opposites. Have kids pick out the opposites. Or, have each child draw two pictures with opposites and exchange them with another person. For example - raining in one picture and sunny in another.

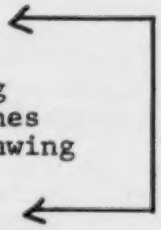
2. Have students list as many antonyms as they can. Give a prize for the longest list.

3. Make a bulletin board for antonyms - or - all Nym family members. Have students put up examples they think of. See How many you can get as a class.

4. Have students try writing diamante poetry which uses antonyms and synonyms.

Example:

Night
Silent, dark
Creeping, sneaking, lurking
Spooks, thieves, terror, witches
Retreating, lightening, withdrawing
Sunshining, sparkling
Day



Homonyms

1. Have kids make up puns using homophones. For example:
   What do you call 151 rabbits in a line who take one step backward?
   Answer: A receding "hairline"
   Example: A nurse told some friends she wanted to show them the hospital's new "ballroom". She showed them the new nursery.

2. Make up dictation sentences using homophones. Dictate them to students. Then let them proof and correct to check their spelling of the homonyms.

3. Write dictionary pronunciations of homonyms. Have students write the correct spellings and then use the words in sentences.
   Examples: a. pēs - peace piece
   b. 'Kän-test and Kan-'test - I contest the decision. She won the contest.

Synonyms

1. Synonym relay - Start the game by giving a sentence - The child is tiny. Ask for someone to use another word (synonym) for tiny. The student who answers then thinks of a new sentence and calls on someone else to use a synonym for one of the words in his sentence.

2. Synonym, Antonym, or Homonym Bees - Divide class into two teams. Run it similar to a spelling bee.

   Synonyms - Say a word with a ready synonym. The child must must say a synonym or sit down.

   Antonyms - Say a word. Child must say its antonym.

   Homonyms - Say a homonym and spell it. Child must spell its homonym. Or, use a homonym in a sentence and the child must spell it the way it is used.

Card Games - Nym Family

Make many pairs of synonym cards, homonym cards, or antonym cards. Have the children play any of these: 1. Rummy 2. War 3. Go Fish 4. Concentration

NYM FAMILY
AREA VII RESOURCES

Filmstrips:

9466 Word Wise-Antonyms

9469 Word Wise-Homographs

9468 Word Wise-Homonyms

9467 Word Wise-Synonyms

6233 Fundamentals of Vocabulary Building-Has 9 f.s. including some on "nyms"

Bookset

8171 Words That...Antonyms, Homonyms, Synonyms, Homographs-12 Books